

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

ACDA-05 /061 W

----- 089743

R 050959Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR

DA WASHDC/DAMI-FLT

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF DESIGNATED BUCHAREST DEPUTY  
MAYOR

REF: (A) BUCHAREST DAO MSG DTG 2 DEC 1346Z 74 (NOTAL);  
(B) BUCHAREST DAO MSG DTG 29NOV 1450Z 74 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO BUCHAREST DAILY DEC. 3, AT SPECIAL SESSION OF BUCHAREST PEOPLES COUNCIL ON DEC 2 GHEORGHE ION (SINCE 1965 ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF) WAS "DELEGATED TO EXERCISE FUNCTION OF FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN" (FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR) BY "PRESIDENTIAL DECREE" IN PLACE OF NICOLAE POPA WHO WAS RELIEVED AND ELECTED AS A VICE-CHAIRMAN. ANOTHER BUCHAREST VICE-CHAIRMAN, DUMITRU V. GHEORGHE (BROUGHT IN SHORTLY AFTER MAYOR CIOARA TOOK OFFICE IN 1972), WAS REMOVED TO "OTHER ASSIGNMENT".

2. DURING AMB'S CALL DECEMBER 4, BUCHAREST MAYOR CIOARA SAID HE HAD UNDERGONE COMPLEX DELICATE OPERATION WHICH REQUIRED EXTENSIVE HOSPITALIZATION IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BUT WAS NOW WORKING BACK INTO JOB. HE SAID POST-  
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OPERATIVE RECUPERATION HAD REQUIRED HIM TO WALK FOUR KM.

PER DAY IN HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. (CIOARA APPEARED TO HAVE LOST WEIGHT AND COLOR, BUT APPEARED AS ALERT AS DURING AMB'S LAST MEETING WITH HIM IN SPRING.)

3. CONCERNING ION'S TRANSFER, CIOARA SAW NOTHING UNUSUAL IN MOVING MILITARY MAN INTO CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE JOB AND RECALLED THAT ION HAD BEEN A BUCHAREST PARTY SECRETARY BEFORE HIS 22-YEAR ARMY CAREER: CIOARA WAS UNCOMMUNICATIVE ABOUT ION'S SPECIFIC DUTIES OR REASONS FOR REASSIGNMENT.

4. MEANWHILE, A BUCHREST PEOPLES COUNCIL SECRETARY TOLD POL OFF THAT CITY HALL DUTIES HAD BEEN RESHUFFLED, WITH ION TAKING "PLANNING" AND "SOME MAIN ECONOMIC TASKS", BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY CONSTRUCTION, WHICH A LESSER DEPUTY MAYOR WOULD HANDLE (NOT POPA, AS PREVIOUSLY).

5. COMMENT. CIOARA'S POOR HEALTH AND POSSIBLE SLOW RECOVERY FROM SERIOUS OPERATION SAID NOW TO BE ONE PRINCIPAL FACTOR IN ION'S MOVE TO KEY EXECUTIVE POST IN A BUCHAREST CITY ADMINISTRATION PLEDGED TO FULFILL CITY'S FIVE-YEAR-PLAN IN FOUR AND ON-HALF YEARS (A CENTRAL FACTOR IN CEAUSESCU'S NATIONAL ECONOMIC ACCELERATION CAMPAING PROMOTED IN 1972 OVER SKEPTICISM BY SOME LEADERS).

6. LAGS IN BUCHAREST CONSTRUCTION/NEW INVESTMENT SECTOR SEEM PARTICULARLY EVIDENT: EMB SOURCES POINT TO SQUANDERING OF MATERIALS, LACK OF TRAINED MANPOWER, DISORDERLY MANAGEMENT, AND BRIBERY. ARMY TROOPS HAVE PERIODICALLY ASSISTED HIGH-PRIORITY CONSTRUCTION.

7. ON PRESENT EVIDENCE ION'S MOVE SEEMS NOT DEMOTION BUT DEMANDING REASSIGNMENT WHERE PROBLEMS MAY EXIST AGGRAVATED BY CIOARA'S ABSENCE FOR HOSPITALIZATION. IT IS ALSO IN LINE WITH GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY MILITARY IN NATIONAL ECONOMIC TASKS WHICH CEAUSESCU HAS FAVORED. (SEE REFT ZS FOR BACKGROUND.)

8. WE FIND NO BASIS IN CONSTITUTION, AS AMENDED IN MARCH TO CREATE "PRESIDENCY", FOR DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL OFFICIAL, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL CASES HAVE NOW TURNED UP OF CONFIDENTIAL

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"PRESIDENTIAL DECREE" INSTALLING COUNTY PEOPLES COUNCIL CHAIRMAN OR VICE-CHAIRMAN, E.G. JOITA IN OLT (NOT MARAMURES AS REPORTED REF B). END COMMENT.

9. QUERIED BY AMB ABOUT BUCHAREST ORGANIZATION'S ABORTIVE PROPOSAL TO ELECT CEAUSESCU FOR LIFE, CIOARA SEEMED TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM IT SLIGHTLY, CLAIMING THAT THERE HAD BEEN GRASSROOTS SENTIMENT WHICH HE HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO

PRESENT TO PARTY CONGRESS. HE UNDERLINED THAT ITS  
SIGNIFICANCE HAD BEEN "POLITICAL" NOT "PRACTICAL". (THIS  
IS CONSISTENT WITH INTERPRETATION CIOARA USED AT NOVEMBER 28  
CONGRESS RECEPTION WITH WESTERNERS AND WITH JOURNALIST  
N. LUPU'S LINE TO DCM SEVERAL DAYS LATER.)  
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## Message Attributes

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